

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN  
GREEN BAY DIVISION**

Anthony Arendt,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.

A.W. Chesterton, a corporation,  
CBS Corporation, a corporation,  
Garlock Sealing Technologies LLC, a corporation,  
General Electric Company, a corporation,  
Owens-Illinois Inc., a corporation, and  
Rapid American Corporation, a corporation,

Defendants.

**COMPLAINT**

Now comes the plaintiff, Anthony Arendt, (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, CASCINO VAUGHAN LAW OFFICES, LTD., and complains of defendants as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

1. Plaintiff, Anthony Arendt, is an adult citizen of Wisconsin and plaintiff lives in New Franken, Wisconsin.
2. Plaintiff worked with asbestos at various job sites in the state of Wisconsin during his career as a Paper Maker.
3. The defendants are all corporations, none of which is incorporated in or has its principal place of business in the State of Wisconsin, and at all times relevant to the allegations contained herein were engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing and selling asbestos and/or asbestos-containing products and/or asbestos-insulated equipment (hereinafter referred to as "asbestos products"). Please refer to the attached Exhibit "A" for the state of incorporation and principal place of business of each defendant.

4. Jurisdiction is based on diversity of citizenship of the parties hereto under Title 28, United States Code, §1332.
5. The amount in controversy exceeds the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars, exclusive of interest and costs.
6. Venue is proper pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, §1391.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

7. Plaintiff during the course of his employment at various job sites, including those listed on the attached Exhibit "B", was exposed to asbestos dust or fibers emanating from the asbestos products which were sold, manufactured, distributed, packaged, installed or otherwise placed into commerce by these defendants.
8. Plaintiff was ignorant of the dangerous nature of asbestos and of the nature of the risks incurred by workers working with or near said materials.
9. Plaintiff became aware of the asbestos-related condition and said condition was caused by defendants' wrongful conduct within the statute of limitations before the filing of this action.
10. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendants, Plaintiff developed and has been diagnosed as having asbestos disease on August 6, 2006.
11. Plaintiff suffered great pain, physical impairment, great mental pain and anguish, is liable for large sums of money for medical and hospital care, and suffered losses to his personal property and possessions.

#### **COUNT I - PRODUCTS LIABILITY - NEGLIGENCE**

12. Plaintiff brings this count for negligence against all defendants and incorporates by reference all general allegations.

13. It was reasonably foreseeable by defendants that Plaintiff and other workers would be working with or in the proximity of defendants' asbestos products.
14. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care for the safety of Plaintiff and others who worked with or were exposed to the defendants' asbestos products.
15. Defendants knew or in the exercise of ordinary or reasonable care ought to have known that exposure to their asbestos products caused disease and/or death and that Plaintiff did not know that asbestos products were dangerous or harmful.
16. Notwithstanding the aforementioned duty, defendants, and each of them, were negligent by one or more of the following acts or omissions:
  - a. Failed to adequately warn Plaintiff or others of the health hazards of asbestos;
  - b. Failed to warn Plaintiff or others of the danger and harm of the asbestos after the products or equipment were installed at the premises;
  - c. Failed to investigate or test for the health effects of asbestos prior to distribution and sale;
  - d. Failed to instruct Plaintiff, his employers or others in the use of precautionary measures relating to asbestos-containing products and/or asbestos-insulated equipment; and/or
  - e. Manufactured, supplied, or installed unsafe asbestos-containing products or asbestos-insulated equipment.
17. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of the defendants above, plaintiff was injured as described above.

**COUNT II – PRODUCT LIABILITY - UNREASONABLY DANGEROUS PRODUCT**

18. This cause of action is asserted against the manufacturing and supplying defendants.
19. The defendants' above-described asbestos products were manufactured, supplied and installed in an unreasonably dangerous condition presenting dangers to the life and health of

the ultimate users thereof and to persons in the position of the Plaintiff.

20. At all relevant times, the defendants placed their asbestos products on the market knowing that they would be used without inspection for such unreasonably dangerous defects and defendants expected such asbestos products to reach Plaintiff and other users and consumers without substantial change in the condition they were in when sold.
21. Plaintiff used and handled, or was otherwise exposed to, the supplying defendants' asbestos products in the conditions in which they left the control of such defendants and in a manner that was reasonably foreseeable and/or anticipated by such defendants.
22. Defendants manufactured, supplied or installed a product, or equipment, that was unreasonably dangerous in nature in that it contained asbestos, and in particular:
  - a. Was not accompanied by an adequate warning relating to the health hazards of asbestos products;
  - b. Was not accompanied by instructions concerning precautionary measures to be taken to minimize the risk of health hazards associated with asbestos products;
  - c. Was not subjected to adequate investigation regarding its hazards to health; and
  - d. Was improperly designed with, or specified for, the use of asbestos as opposed to non-asbestos substitutes.
23. Plaintiff's exposure to the unreasonably dangerous products manufactured, supplied and installed by the defendants proximately caused injuries set forth above.

### **COUNT III – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT**

24. Defendants' conduct alleged herein occurred many years before certain changes in the Wisconsin Statutes affecting the law of joint and several liability, as set forth in §§895.045(1) and 895.85, Wis. Stats., were enacted as part of so-called "tort reform" in 1995.

25. Retroactive application of the 1995 legislation purporting to apply to the new versions of §§895.045(1) and 895.86, Wis. Stats, to defendants' tortious acts, which occurred many years before the effective date of such legislation, merely because this lawsuit was filed after the effective date of such legislation, would materially and adversely affect the interests of plaintiff in this matter.
26. Retroactive application of the current versions of §§895.045(1) and 895.85, Wis. Stats., to the facts of this case would be unreasonable and unconstitutional, in violation of Article I, §10 and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of Article IV, §17(2) of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and contrary to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin's ruling in Martin v. Richards, 192 Wis. 2d 156, (Docket #91-0016, 1995).

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- a. Judgment against defendants, jointly and severally, for compensatory and general damages.
- b. Such further legal and equitable relief as the Court orders to do justice in this case; costs and disbursements of this action.

#### **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by a jury of 6.

Dated: August 4, 2009

s/ Michael P. Cascino  
One of the Plaintiff's Attorneys

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**Exhibit A**  
**Defendants' Home States and Principal Places of Business**

Defendant	StateHdq	StatePrincBus
AW Chesterton	Massachusetts	Massachusetts
CBS Corporation	Delaware	Pennsylvania
Garlock Sealing Technologies LLC	Delaware	New York
General Electric Company	New York	Connecticut
Owens-Illinois Inc.	Delaware	Ohio
Rapid American Corporation	Delaware	New York

## EXHIBIT B

SiteLocation	SiteCity	SiteSt	FirstYrId	LastYrId
Green Bay Paper	Green Bay	WI	1953	1992